

Magpies

In the moth trap a few days ago I had 9 Magpie Moths, a rather beautiful and quite large moth with black and white colouration with a hint of yellow. As I was writing down “Magpies 9” I was reminded of the well-known rhyme about real Magpies which starts “One for sorrow.....”. I looked it up and found several versions. This seems to be the most well-known one:

One for sorrow,
Two for joy,
Three for a girl,
Four for a boy,
Five for silver,
Six for gold,
Seven for a secret never to be told.



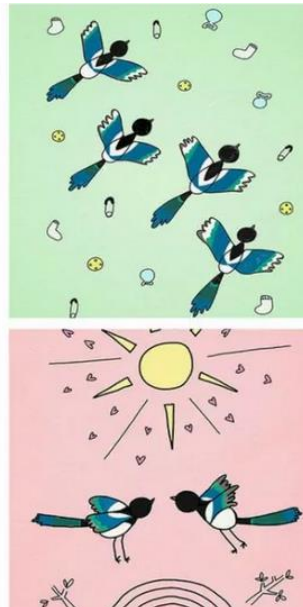
But earlier versions, published as early as 1780 are more religious in feel, for example:

One for sorrow,
Two for mirth
Three for a funeral,
Four for birth
Five for heaven
Six for hell
Seven for the devil, his own self.

But it does not go up to 9. However, a more modern version does:

One For Sorrow
THE MAGPIE POEM

One for sorrow,
Two for joy,
Three for a girl,
Four for a boy,
Five for silver,
Six for gold,
Seven for a secret,
Never to be told.
Eight for a wish,
Nine for a kiss,
Ten for a bird,
You must not miss.



So I am waiting for that
kiss!

Rosemary Royle